

What is Claimed is:

1. An apparatus for communicating graphics between at least two remotely-located computers across a computer network comprising:

an input for receiving a video signal output from a graphics card of a source computer;

a memory for storing discrete units of the video signal;

a compression circuit for compressing a plurality of the discrete units into a compressed video signal;

a network interface circuit coupled to both the compression circuit and the computer network, the network interface circuit configured to format and communicate the compressed video signal over the computer network to a remote computer; and

an output coupled to the computer network.

2. An apparatus for communicating graphics across a computer network comprising:

an input for receiving a video signal;

a memory for storing discrete units of the video signal;

a compression circuit for compressing a plurality of the discrete units into a compressed video signal; and

a network interface circuit coupled to both the compression circuit and the computer network, the network interface circuit configured to format and communicate the compressed video signal over the computer network to a remote computer.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the video signal is in compliance with a Digital Visual Interface (DVI) standard.
4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the video signal is an analog video signal.
5. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a circuit for converting an analog video signal into a digital video signal.
6. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the computer network comprises a local area network (LAN).
7. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the computer network comprises a wide area network (WAN).
8. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network interface circuit is configured to format the compressed video signal into a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) packets that are communicated over the computer network to the remote computer.
9. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a second input for receiving a second video signal.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the compression circuit is further configured to separately compress a plurality of discrete units for each of the video signals.

11. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network interface circuit is configured to format and communicate separately compressed video signals to different remote computers, such that a first remote computer receives a first compressed video signal and a second remote computer receives a second compressed video signal.

12. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of network interface circuits, each network interface circuit being coupled to both a compression circuit and the computer network, each network interface circuit being configured to format and communicate the compressed video signal over the computer network to a remote computer.

13. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the apparatus comprises a connector for direct connection to a source computer that supplies the video signal, wherein the connector comprises signals carrying power signals for powering the apparatus.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the connector is an edge connector configured to directly plug into a card slot of a motherboard of the source computer.

15. An apparatus for communicating graphics across a computer network comprising:

an input for receiving a video signal; and

a network interface circuit coupled to both the input and the computer network, the network interface circuit configured to format and communicate the video signal over the computer network to a remote computer.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the network interface circuit is configured to format the video signal into a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) packets that are communicated over the computer network to the remote computer.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a second input for receiving a second video signal.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the network interface circuit is configured to separately format and communicate each received video signal to different remote computers, such that a first remote computer receives the a first video signal and a second remote computer receives a second video signal.

19. A method for communicating graphics across a computer network comprising:

receiving a video signal;

converting the video signal into a format suitable for communication over a computer network; and

communicating the converted video signal across the computer network to a remote computer.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of converting comprises forming a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) packets collectively embodying the video signal.

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